

THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

RODERICK O. MATHESON

EDITOR

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 2

THE POLAR WAE.

The Nation is of the opinion that the word "controversy" is altogether too dignified a term to describe the miserable war of words that now rages about the Pole. The situation, to quote that magazine, is deplorable. The most dramatic achievement in the scientific annals of the age is being written down in billingsgate. The nation's disaccustomed ears ring again with the once familiar epithet, "liar." The goal which was striven for during three hundred years of self-sacrifice and heroic devotion, once attained, seems to have let loose the baser passions of men, and the interests of truth are made secondary to the consideration of newspaper scoops, Chautauqua profits, and book royalties. For this unhappy result we can not hold Commander Peary entirely blameless. The provocation, from his point of view, must have been great. If the painfully-won crown of his life's work were really in danger of being snatched from him by an impostor, the temper of his challenge to Dr. Cook might be excused. But faith in his own cause and in the ultimate triumph of truth should have lent him patience. If Dr. Cook's story is a fabrication, Commander Peary must know that it could not stand the light of serious investigation for three months. Its improbabilities had struck against the world's suspicion even before the message from Peary came. That message has only given the signal for a mudslinging contest. Both explorers may be reminded of the moral verse:

Were I so tall to reach the Pole,
Or grasp the ocean with my span,
I must be measured by my soul,
The mind's the standard of the man.

THE STAR AND COUNTY OFFICIALS.

The Star is excited over the fact that it rushed blindly to the defense of county officials delinquent in taxes without first considering what appearance it would make before the public, and only saw its position after it had been pointed out by others. The Advertiser suggested that territorial officials who objected to paying their proper share of the taxes should be dismissed, and remarked that the counties, being equal participants in the taxes, should adopt a like plan for forcing collections. The Star hastened to the defense of such officials, without knowing who they were. It is a habit of the Star to see everything red when any reference to county officials is made.

The Star suggests that the Territory might garnish if it wants to collect taxes due, as much as to say that the Territory can not expect any assistance or cooperation from the county branches of a common government. Perhaps the Star does not know that there are a few officials of the City and County of Honolulu already garnished up to the limit for their own term. The Star also overlooks the fact that Oahu has not the only county in the Territory.

FIGURE IT OUT.

Time is a curious freak at the earth's poles, and when Dr. Cook says that he reached there at seven o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, April 21, 1908, his statement is without certain meaning. Presumably he carried Greenwich time, in which tables for navigation are calculated. So at the time of his discovery it was nine o'clock the night before in Honolulu. As this meridian runs to the North Pole as well as that of Greenwich, its time also applies. So does the time of every other meridian, and in consequence at the same instant it was also seven o'clock Monday afternoon and every hour, minute, and second in between until seven o'clock Tuesday afternoon. At both the North and the South Pole it is always two days at once, and every day lasts for forty-eight hours.

The Sunday Advertiser will contain a number of new features, in addition to most of the old ones. Honolulu's Mr. Dooley has sent in a philosophical article on things in general. The Bystander has had an observing eye on the public, and the society department will contain a number of articles of special interest to Army and Navy folk. The first of what is to be a series of interviews with local celebrities will appear, while the news columns and the illustrated sections will be complete and timely. A special feature will be a new Hawaiian story by John Fleming Wilson.

Dr. Cook states that the matter of the discovery of the North Pole was not one of bravery or physical endurance, but "a proper understanding of the needs of the stomach." Generals long ago discovered that an army marches on its stomach, and it has been a general confidence among the fair sex ever since Eve did her first cooking that the way to the male heart is through the stomach, but heretofore no one suspected that the discovery of the North Pole lay along the same route.

The way one Chinaman has shown the aviator experimenters of the Pacific Coast how to fly and the way the Chinese here have shown the Navy boys how they can play American baseball leads to the idea that China has not only awakened but is up and moving about.

A correspondent, U. Thompson, writes a communication, in which he advocates simplified spelling. A careful perusal of the communication fails to show, however, that the advocate practises what he preaches.

Letters From the People

THOMPSON ON ORTHOGRAPHY.

Editor Advertiser:—In the Sunday Advertiser you had an article on "More Orthographic Amputations," quoted from the Kansas City Journal.

As a counter to that, I hope you will quote the following, most of which is taken from a paper prepared on the subject of simplified spelling by Brander Matthews of Columbia University: "The publication of a true history of our orthography would convince the average reader that there is not now any standard spelling for all the words of the language (English), and that there never has been any standard spelling in the past. There is divergence of usage between writers of distinction today, as there always has been. There is disagreement in the recommendations made by the foremost dictionaries, as there always has been. There is no uniformity now, and there never has been any uniformity. * * * Spelling is like speech; it is the result of a tacit agreement to employ certain symbols. * * *

"There is not a right spelling of any word to be enforced upon everyone; there is only a spelling that is generally accepted, and which may be modified from time to time by tacit consent. * * * Every one of us has a right to his own opinion; if he prefers cumbersome complexity, he can have his own way; and if he would rather employ the briefer and more direct spelling, he is within his rights as a human being. * * *

"If we had a history of English orthography, it would show that countless modifications have taken place since the invention of printing. It would also prove that English, like every other language, has been vainly striving to make its spelling exactly

represent its pronunciation, and that it has failed, partly because the pronunciation of a language is constantly changing, and generally changing more rapidly than the spelling can be modified to conform to it. A change in pronunciation—like that of either, which was either half a century ago, and which is now partly ever-changing—can spread very swiftly by imitation; but a change in spelling to correspond exactly with the new pronunciation, meets with far more resistance, since the eye seems to be more conservative than the ear. * * *

"And how truly vicious our present spelling is, anyone can see for himself. It is unworthy of a practical people. It misrepresents the derivation of the words; it is wholly unscientific; it is as wasteful as it is absurd. No better example could be found of the inconsistency of human nature than the fact that the most businesslike of races has been so long content with the most unbusinesslike of orthographies. * * * The spelling of English is more foolish than the French or German, partly because English has suffered more than any other modern language from the evil influence of uneducated printers and of half-educated pedants. The printers were first in the field, and their misdeeds are at once easier to understand and harder to counteract. The earliest printers in England were not Englishmen; mostly they were Germans or Dutchmen, to whom English was a foreign language. * * * They had little or no knowledge of the proper spelling of our tongue. * * * It is the spelling of yesterday but not the spelling of the day before yesterday; and it will not be the spelling of tomorrow. * * *

"And there you have the secrets of our present system of spelling. First, there is no authority for spelling any word as it is spelled. It is merely custom. We learned to spell as we spell, and so we spell as we spell. Second, we speak as we hear educated people speak; but we object to changing the spelling to fit the pronunciation. Third, many of our words were changed by foreign printers, who had no object in keeping the simpler form of the words, and by such men as Charles II. and

others like him, who wanted to show they understood a foreign language. But, having learned the long, hard way of spelling a word, we propose punishing the coming generations without end, forgetting that we shall soon be gone and that writing in extra letters into a word in this life won't be a passport into the region we hope to enter.

Really, I believe that most people object to this simplified spelling because they are too lazy to learn the new spelling. I'm sure that is my principal object. Still, for the sake of the coming generations, my objection ought not to be considered.

As Sainte-Beuve once suggested: "Orthography is like society; it will never be entirely reformed, but we can at least make it less vicious."

U. THOMPSON.

THE DANGER ZONE.

Editor Advertiser: It will serve as a protection against further casualties to the public generally to exactly locate the dangerous spots for bathing on the Waikiki beach, where J. F. Pickard, a bluejacket of the cruiser Pennsylvania, lost his life by drowning.

To the left of the Moana pier there is a red house; it is straight out from there, about half the length of the pier, that the suction occurs. It is probably caused by an inrush of water into a hollow rock. This will serve the double purpose of exactly locating the dangerous place and at the same time remove the erroneous idea that the waters opposite the Waikiki Inn are dangerous.

I know the locality well and although merely an onlooker, write this for the best interests of all. I am,

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

Ewa, October 1.

OFFERING AT THEATRE

BONINE FINDS FAVOR

Last night's program at the Theater Bonine was one of the most delightful yet offered at the attractive little playhouse. The pictures of Korea, Stockholm and Naples were particularly attractive and many of them were received with applause. The films are all of remarkably fine quality and, thrown on the screen, almost make the spectator believe for the time being, that he is in the cities shown.

The other acts were all excellent and on the whole the entertainment could hardly be improved upon.

Mr. Bonine has equipped his theater with the latest inventions in moving picture projection apparatus and his lenses are such that the very finest results are secured when the views are projected on the screen. The elegant metropolitan equipment of the little theater cost a lot of money, but the venture promises to be a financial as well as an artistic success.

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

This is the age of research and experiment, when all nature, so to speak, is ransacked by the scientists for the comfort and happiness of man. Science has indeed made giant strides during the past century, and among the—by no means least important—discoveries in medicine comes that of

THERAPION.

This preparation is unquestionably one of the most genuine and reliable Patent Medicines ever introduced, and has, under the guidance of the Continental Hospitals by Ricord, Rostan, Jobert, Volpau, Maisonneuve, the well-known Chassaing, and indeed by all who are regarded as authorities in such matters, including the celebrated Lallemand, and Roux, by whom it was some time since uniformly adopted, and that it is worthy the attention of those who require such a remedy we think there is no doubt. From the time of Aristotle downwards, a potent agent in the removal of these diseases has like the famed philosopher's stone been the object of search of some hopeful, generous mind; and far beyond the mere power—such could ever have been discovered—of transmuting the baser metals into gold is surely the discovery of a remedy so potent as to replenish the failing energies of the confirmed run in the one case, and in the other so effectually, speedily and safely to expel from the system without the aid, or even the knowledge, of a second party, the poisons of acquired or inherited disease in all their protean forms as to leave no taint or trace behind. Such is

THERAPION.

which may certainly rank with, if not take precedence of, many of the discoveries of our day, about which no little ostentation and noise have been made, and the extensive and ever-increasing demand that has been created for this medicine, which ever introduced appears to prove that it is destined to cast into oblivion all those questionable remedies that were formerly the sole reliance of medical men. Therapion may be obtained of the principal chemists and merchants throughout the world.—Diamond Fields Advertiser, Kimberley.

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Sunday Advertiser

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